

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and/or listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently amended): A computer-implemented method comprising:
storing a plurality of key definitions in a database table in a database of an Financial Service Organization (FSO) computer system, wherein the FSO computer system is configured to perform processing on FSO transaction-related data, wherein the key definitions in the database table are configured for use in processing FSO transaction-related data in the FSO computer system, wherein storing the plurality of key definitions in the table comprises, for each of at least two rows in the database table:

displaying two or more key element representations on a display screen in data communication with ~~a~~the Financial Service Organization (FSO) computer system comprising a database, the FSO computer system being configured to perform processing on FSO transaction-related data;

receiving a selection by a user of at least two key element representations from the two or more displayed key element representations;

preparing a key definition from the two or more key elements corresponding to the at least two selected key element representations in response to the user selecting the at least two key element representations; and

storing the key definition in the database table; the key definition being configured for use in preparing a processing key value from a transaction-related data in the FSO computer system,

wherein the processing key value is configured for use in locating a process control data set in the database in the FSO computer system, the process control data set

comprising one or more process control data values and configured for use in processing the transaction-related data in the FSO computer system.

7. (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein the user selecting the key element representations, the preparing the key definition, and the storing the key definition occur during a configuration of the FSO computer system.

8. (Currently amended): The method of claim 6, wherein the preparing the key definition from the one or more key elements further comprises the user specifying a sequence of the key elements in the key definition, wherein the user specifying a sequence of the key elements in the key definition comprises the user the user inputting one or more sequence parameters, at least one of one or more sequence parameters specifying the place of each one of the-a selected key data element in a sequence of the selected key data elements for the key definition.

9. (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein the database comprises a plurality of data elements, and wherein the method further comprises:

the user selecting a plurality of key elements for use in key definitions from the plurality of data elements; and

the user selecting the one or more key elements for displaying on the display screen from the plurality of key elements.

10. (Original): The method of claim 6, further comprising:

the user defining one or more key values for the key definition;

the user defining a processing parameter value for each of the key values for the key definition; and

storing the one or more key values and processing parameter values in the database;

wherein locating the processing parameter value using the constructed processing key value comprises matching the constructed processing key value with one of the one or more key values stored in the database.

11. (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein each of the one or more key values is unique among the one or more key values for the key definition.

12. (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein the database comprises a process control data table associated with the key definition, wherein the process control data table comprises one or more rows, and wherein each row in the process control data table comprises one or more fields for storing one key value and one or more fields for storing the processing parameter value for the key value stored in the row.

13. (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein each of the one or more key values comprises one key element value for each of the one or more key elements in the key definition, and wherein the user defining the one or more key values for the key definition further comprises the user defining the one or more key element values for each of the one or more key values.

14. (Original): The method of claim 13, wherein the user defining the one or more key element values for each of the one or more key values comprises the user selecting a key element value for each of the one or more key elements in the key definition from a plurality of available key element values for the key element.

15. (Original): The method of claim 14, wherein the plurality of available key element values comprises a wildcard key element value.

16. (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein the database is relational or is object-oriented.

17. (Original): The method of claim 6, further comprising:

the user defining one or more key masks for the key definition, wherein each key mask comprises one or more mask fields, wherein the one or more mask fields in the key mask correspond to the one or more key elements in the key definition; and

storing the one or more key masks in the database.

18. (Original): The method of claim 16, wherein the user defining the one or more key masks further comprises the user selecting a mask field value from a plurality of mask field values for each of the one or more mask fields in each of the one or more key masks, and wherein the plurality of mask field values comprises an equal mask field value and a wildcard mask field value.

19. (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein the transaction-related data comprises a credit card transaction, and wherein the processing parameter value comprises one or more data values configured for processing the credit card transaction.

20. (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the processing parameter value comprises one or more merchant transaction pricing values.

21-77. (Cancelled).

78. (Currently amended): A computer-implemented method comprising:
displaying on a display screen coupled to a Financial Service Organization (FSO) computer system a dictionary of data elements comprising one or more data elements associated with an FSO transaction-related data, the FSO computer system being configured to process the transaction-related data;

receiving a selection by a user of two or more data elements selected from the dictionary of data elements;

receiving, for each of at least two of the selected data elements, ~~from the user~~ an input from the user, the input comprising a sequence parameter specifying the place of the data element in a sequence of the two or more data elements,

the selected data elements in the user-specified sequence defining a user-defined key, the user-defined key being configured during a configuration of the FSO computer system and describing a location of one or more corresponding data element values stored in an FSO database; and

Inventor: Steven G. Doughty
Appl. Ser. No.: 09/699,037
Atty. Dckt. No.: 5053-31401

storing the user-defined key in the FSO database.